

strigose. *Calyx* tube ca 1 cm long, 5-6 mm broad; sepals 5, spathaceous straight on both surfaces. *Petals* 5, obovate, yellow with fleshy base and rounded apex, 1.5-3.5 × 1.5 cm; outer surface with a few scattered tribrachiate stellate hairs towards the apex; inner surface glabrous. *Staminal column* 0.8-1 cm long, antheriferous throughout; filaments ca 1 mm long. *Ovary* ovoid ca 3 mm high and ca 5 mm across, pubescent; style glabrous; stigma 5-lobed, scarlet. *Capsule* 1.5-5 cm long and ca 1.5 cm across, ovoid to oblong with ca 8 mm long tapering apex, densely studded with bristle-bearing tubercles. *Seeds* rounded, 4-5 mm in diameter, dark-brown, densely villous; hilum roundish, dark brown or black, glabrous (Figs. 1-6).

Fl. & Fr.: September-November. Growing mostly in black clayey soil.

Specimens examined: RAJASTHAN: Jhalawar, 14.9.64, B. M. Wadhwa 5452 (CAL).

MADHYA PRADESH: Saugor C. P. Cantonment, Saugor dt., 14th Oct. 1906, A. A. Islyath, 28710 (ISIM). GUJRAT: Sasangir to Junvania (Saurashtra), 5.10.53, H. Santapau 16328 (BLATT).

Note: This new taxon is easily recognizable by its 3-5-lobed, deltoideform leaves and larger densely villous seeds (4-5 mm in diameter) whereas *Abelmoschus tuberculatus* Pal & Singh is characterised by pinnatisect leaves and smaller glabrous seeds (ca 3 mm in diameter).

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NOTES ON *BRACHYSTELMA ELENADUENSIS* (ASCLEPIADACEAE)

In a recent taxonomic survey of the Asclepiadaceae of Karnataka, the authors made extensive collections in different parts of the State, including collections of the newly described taxon *B. elenaduensis* M. B. S. Char, near Elenadu (Tumkur Dist.), the type locality. Some of these were grown to fruiting in the departmental garden. A study of this taxon has revealed important taxonomic features which have been either missed or misinterpreted by Char (1978). We felt, therefore, that we must rectify its description.

Char (*l.c.*) describes a 'coroline corona' in *B. elenaduensis*. According to him it is "cupular, 1.2 × 2.4 mm obtusely 5-angled around the staminal corona and as high,

undulate, purplish and with white hairs outside". But a corolline corona does not exist in the genus *Brachystelma* and the flowers bear only the staminal corona (corona adherent to the staminal column) (Dyer 1971, 1976, 1977; Ramakrishna 1980; Arekal and Ramakrishna 1981, 1981). The cup-like corona in *B. elenaduensis* is actually stalked, 2-seriate; the outer being of 5-bifid, obtuse lobes 0.5 mm high, hairy; hairs multicellular uniseriate; the inner of 5 tridentate lobes (referred to as 'teeth' by Char *l.c.*) partially covering the anthers (referred to as 'scales' by Char *l.c.*) with flat apices.

In view of the above, the diagnosis of Char (*l.c.*) being modified as follows:

B. elenaduensis is allied to *B. edulis* Coll.

et Hems. but differs from it in the following characters; corolla lobes deltoid, reflexed; corona staminal, 2-seriate; outer corona

5-bifid, obtuse not reflexed; inner corona 5-lobed tridentate, overtopping the anthers; hairy.

Flowering: April-June, *Fruiting*: May-August.

Specimens examined: M. B. S. Char s.n., deposited at St. Joseph College, Bangalore; TMR 1336-1339, 1358, 1389, Herbarium, Department of Botany, Manasangotri, Mysore.

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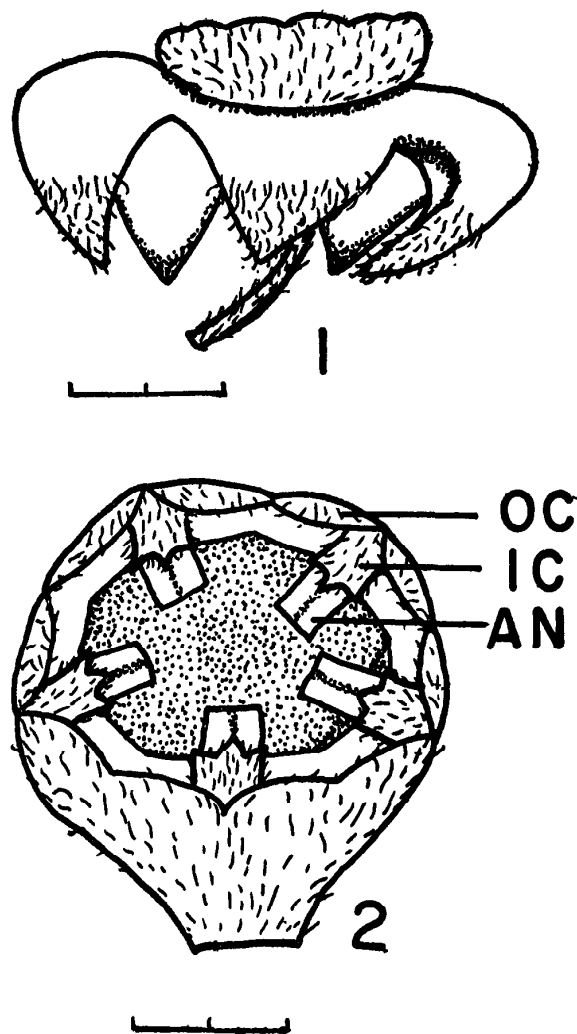
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Brachystelma elenaduensis

Figs. 1-2 : 1. Flower $\times 8$. 2. Staminal corona $\times 20$.
OC-Outer corona, IC-Inner corona, AN-Anther.

ELATINE GRACILIS MASON (ELATINACEAE) —AN ADDITION TO THE FLORA OF INDIA

During an intensive survey of the flora of Himachal Pradesh the author came across a few interesting plant species. One of these is *Elatine gracilis* Mason, a north American weed collected from Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh growing in rice fields. Since this species has not been re-

corded in Indian floras, the description and illustration of the plant are provided for easy identification.

The species differs from *E. americana* Arn. and *E. ambigua* Wight by following characters.